



Woodpecker Wants a Waffle

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One-day Benny the woodpecker awakens to the best tummy-rumbling smell ever and discovers it's something called waffles. He must taste them! Benny makes a brilliant plan to eat a tasty plate of waffles.

Lexile 430

Publisher website: <https://www.harpercollins.com/9780062342577/woodpecker-wants-a-waffle>

Other Web sites: <https://www.teachingbooks.net/qlpgyvm>

Printable Activity Guide: <https://b0f646cfbd7462424f7a-f9758a43fb7c33cc8adda0fd36101899.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/activity-guides/AG-9780062342577.pdf>

Food: Waffles

Nonfiction Title:

--Carr, Aaron. *Woodpeckers (Animals in My Backyard)*

--Sayre, April Pulley. *Woodpecker Wham!*

--PBS Kids. *PBS KIDS Do It Myself Kids Cookbook*

--Parragon Books. *Totally Amazing Mazes*

Introduction: I would bring a toaster oven and make waffles before the kids come into the room so it smells like waffles. I would hide the waffles so they have to guess what they are smelling. After they say 'waffles', I would ask these questions: Have you ever eaten a waffle? Do you like special toppings on it? What is your favorite kind of waffle?

Story time Activities:

- 1) Art/Craft: Students could create their own maze on paper to get from Point A to Point B.
- 2) Activity: Students could create a tabletop maze and use a printed or stuffed woodpecker to follow the path through the maze. Younger students can demonstrate understanding of words like “above, below, behind, in front of, around”. You could make flashcards with directional words and students could read the cards and make their way through the maze.
- 3) Word Play: Students could make a digital book using Google Slides using pictures from PebbleGo database of other animals stating what food (starting with the same letter as the animal name) that each particular animal doesn't eat: i.e. Dogs don't eat donuts. Cats don't eat cookies.
- 4) Note: Publisher has a printable woodpecker and suggesting cutting it out and taking it to places where waffles are served.
- 5) Make a simple woodpecker craft that students can make with a simple template, straw and a rubber band.
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/158189005634720933/>

Discussion Questions:

1. Where does Benny live? In a hole in a tree.
2. Which of the five senses did Benny use to discover waffles? Smell and sight
3. What does “investigate” mean? To explore, to find out, to discover
4. What different ways did Benny try to get to the waffles?
 - politely knocked on door,
 - tried to sneak in on lady’s dress,
 - tried different disguises like a mask and a hat,
 - tried to impersonate a health inspector and a baby
5. How did his attempts to get waffles work out? He was turned away every time
6. What does “persistent” mean? To keep trying
7. Was Benny persistent? Yes
8. What is something you want to get that will require you to keep trying in order to be successful? Answers will vary.
9. Why did the animals laugh at Benny? They said woodpeckers don’t eat waffles. The thing Benny wanted wasn’t something everyone else wanted.
10. Did Benny give up when the other animals laughed at him? Why or why not? No. He persisted in his desire for waffles. He was determined to taste them.
11. Has anyone ever told you, “because I said so”, when you asked ‘why?’ or ‘why not?’ Answers will vary. Follow up questions: How did that make you feel? Did it change anything? How did you respond? Answers will vary.
12. Did Benny finally get to taste the waffles? Yes. How? He told the animals of an elaborate plan to convince the people to let him taste the waffles, but what he really did was get the animals to gather at a certain place and time to create a distraction for the people so he could sneak in when the people were distracted by the animals and taste the waffles.